REMARKS

This Amendment has been prepared in response to the January 11, 2006 Final Office Action.

Claims 11 and 17 have been amended. Thus, claims 11-20 are pending in the application.

Claims 11-13, 15, and 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Nishimaki et al. for the reasons stated on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. Claims 14, 16, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over Nishimaki et al. for the reasons stated on pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action. Lastly, the Examiner has responded to the arguments presented in the previous October 27, 2005 Amendment on pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action.

By this Amendment, independent claims 11 and 17 have been revised. It is submitted that the present claims, as amended, are patentable over the Nishimaki et al. for the following reasons:

The first protection layer of the present invention is now recited as being adapted to cover the luminescent layer and insulation layer and the rear electrode layer so as to not only prevent penetration of moisture from the upper side, but also from the side. Accordingly, the

first protection layer is available to prevent penetration of moisture from the side in the process of forming the electrode layer for noise reduction and the second protection layer. One the other hand, the insulation layer (7) of Nishimaki et al. is formed only the upper side of the rear electrode layer (6a). Thus, the insulation layer (7) cannot prevent penetration of moisture from the side in the process of forming the conductive electrode layer (8a) and the moisture-proof sheet (2b). The accompanying photograph is an EL which has a structure of an insulation substrate, a transparent electrode layer, a luminescent layer, an insulation layer and a rear electrode layer. However, the EL of the photograph doesn't have a moisture-proof sheet that prevents penetration of moisture from the side. Accordingly, the EL of the photograph cannot prevent penetration of the moisture from the side in the process of forming the conductive electrode layer, and so on. As shown in the photograph attached herewith (**Exhibit A**), there is "a field of non-luminescence" due to penetration of moisture from the side (*see* the accompanying photograph). Accordingly, the EL of the present invention is superior to that of Nishimaki et al. '872.

The second protection layer of the present invention is now recited as being a single layer printed material, whereas the moisture-proof sheet (2b) of Nishimaki et al. Has two layers and is formed by adhesion or thermal compression (*see* paragraph [0013] of Nishimaki et al.). Nishimaki et al. requires an adhesive layer and a film layer for forming the moisture-proof sheet (2b). If components of the adhesive layer exhibit adhesion at normal temperature, the moisture-proof sheet (2b) is formed by adhesion, and if components of the

adhesive layer become adhesive at above normal temperature, the moisture-proof sheet (2b) is formed by thermal compression. Furthermore, if the moisture-proof sheet (2b) is formed by thermal compression, the luminescence efficiency of the EL is lower than the present invention due to the high temperature, and non-luminescence partly occurs on luminescence surface of the EL due to the high pressure. On the other hand, the second protection layer of the present invention needs no adhesive layer because it is formed by printing a material. Accordingly, the second protection layer is different from the moisture-proof sheet (2b).

Due to the above differences, the present invention is defined as "flexible EL" and Nishimaki et al. is defined as "hard EL". Because the film layer is thicker than 100 μm (very thick) and adhesives harden gradually, Nishimaki et al. comprising the moisture-proof sheet is defined as "hard EL". In contrast, since the second protection layer is approximately 10 μm thick (very thin), the present invention including the second protection layer is defined as "flexible EL". Accordingly, the present invention is thin and classified as a flexible EL, whereas Nishimaki et al. is thick and classified as a hard EL.

As mentioned above, the electrode layer for noise reduction of the present invention is formed by printing a material, whereas the conduction electrode layer (8a) of Nishimaki et al. is formed by adhesion (*see* [0013] of Nishimaki et al.). The electrode layer (8a) is formed by first cutting an Al film product, and then adhering the cut Al onto the upper surface of the insulation layer (7). Thus, the conductive electrode layer (8a) requires

adhesives, while the electrode layer for noise reduction of the present invention does not.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present claims, as amended, are patentable over the Nishimaki et al.

No other issues remaining, reconsideration and favorable action upon all of the claims now present in the application is respectfully requested. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney.

No fee is incurred by this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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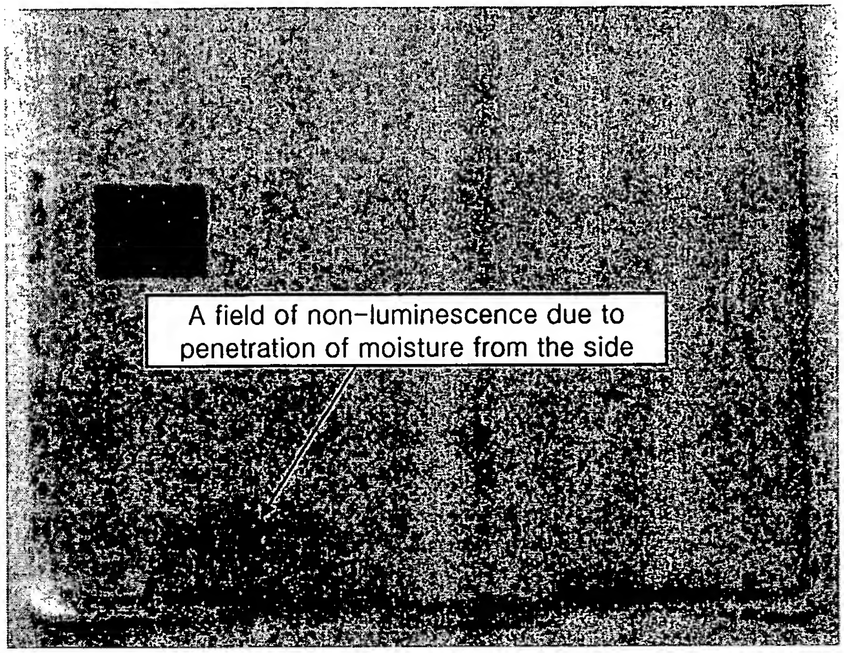
I.D.: REB/HMZ

Exhibit A



Luminescence EL photograph due to penetration of moisture from the side